

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the Third Shock Army

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 23 August 1955

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. Between 5 and 10 August 1955, the Encke Kaserne (5281) in Magdeburg was occupied by a higher staff and a signal unit. The majority of persons observed were high-ranking officers including generals. Forty double telephone lines on permanent poles led to the installation; joined in front of the installation and, underground, led into the installation. The occupation of the installation was estimated at some 400 persons including 100 to 150 uniformed women.¹
2. Between 6 and 9 August, the Nachrichten Kaserne (5286) in Magdeburg was almost 50 percent occupied. The west section of the Seeckt Kaserne (5287) was vacant, the east section was occupied by 80 to 100 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with bridge-building engineer insignia.³ Little traffic was observed in the Encke Kaserne. On 7 August, 4 M-13 rocket launchers crossed the northern road bridge toward the east and, on 8 August, some 10 trucks and 6x120-mm mortars and, later, 6 trucks loaded with 120-mm mortars, 1 radio truck, 1 field kitchen and many individual vehicles, including armored personnel carriers and radio trucks, went in the same direction. At 2100, 2 columns, each of 4 trucks and 2 x 76-mm field guns also went in this direction. Intensive traffic by individual vehicles which went in the same direction continued during the night.⁴
3. At about 2150 on 1 August, at least 9 half-track vehicles, 9 guns, presumably 100-mm AT guns, and some 70 soldiers were entrained at the Burg railroad station.⁵
4. On 11 August, the installation in Tangermünde (5601) was occupied by 100 to 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and black-bordered black epaulets with signal insignia. Four ZIS-3 76-mm guns were seen in the installation.⁶
5. At about 2230 on 26 July, a shipment of 8 T-34/85 tanks, 3 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, approximately 6 trucks and 13 converted boxcars, each occupied by 15 soldiers, was unloaded at the Haldensleben railroad station. At 0130 on 28 July, a train was assembled at the same station. The train was no longer observed there at 0230. The train, which was headed toward

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Magdeburg, carried 8 trucks, 3 field kitchens, 6 six-wheel armored personnel carriers, and, on 5 converted boxcars, some 100 soldiers. It also had 2 additional boxcars. No shipments were observed at the station between 31 July and 2 August.

1. Comment. The ~~Stal~~ Kaserne is believed to be occupied by the Hq Third Shock Army. The elements, which left on 9 July for a command-post exercise, apparently returned to the installation. 25X1
2.
3. Comment. This installation is supposedly occupied by the 36th Bridge Bldg Regt of GSFG, which is still believed stationed in the engineer training area near Dessau.
4. Comment. Elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div, returned to Magdeburg from Letzling Heath.
5. Comment. These were presumably elements of the 304th Arty Brig of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps. A shipment with 12 gun howitzers of this brigade had been dispatched to Letzling Heath as early as 30 July. 25X1
6. Comment. The installation is believed to be occupied by the 953d AAA Bn of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div. The presence there of ZIS-3 guns cannot be explained.
7. Comment. Haldensleben is one of the loading stations of the Letzling Heath training grounds.

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